

RRDSSAB NEWS



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RRDSSAB to assume Direct Delivery of Land Ambulance January 1, 2007

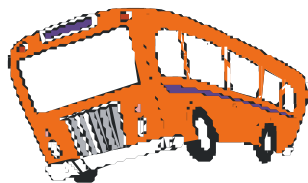
Fort Frances, Ontario - 2006/01/19 - 21:00 - At today's regular meeting of the Rainy River District Social Services Administration Board, the Board adopted a Resolution which will see Land Ambulance directly delivered by the DSSAB effective January 1, 2007.

On January 1, 2001, the Province transferred the responsibility of Land Ambulance to the RRDSSAB, on behalf of the Municipalities and Unincorporated areas. As the Designated Delivery Agent (DDA), the RRDSSAB elected to contract with the two Hospital-based Land Ambulance "Service Providers" - Atikokan General Hospital and Riverside Health Care Facilities Inc.

As a result of today's decision, the RRDSSAB will assume direct operating responsibility for Land Ambulance services across the Rainy River District, when the contracts with the two existing Service Providers expire on December 31, 2006.

New Location

The Child Care Department has moved effective January 24, 2006. Kim Gardiman, Children's Services Manager, can be reached by telephone at (807) 274-3042 or by fax at (807) 274-1777.



Val Pizey, Board Chair noted that, "The decision was not taken lightly or a simple one to make. We have had the privilege to work with two outstanding operators for the past five years and look forward to continuing this relationship during the transition of service."

Currently, most of the DDAs in Ontario deliver Land Ambulance services through a Direct Delivery model. Eight of ten DSSABs directly provide ambulance services. "The overall accountability to the public for Land Ambulance Services has always been the responsibility of the RRDSSAB," said Val Pizey. "The limited say that the RRDSSAB, municipalities and unincorporated areas had in ensuring quality of service, implementing change and improving efficiencies while remaining accountable to the Province was a concern." The assumption of direct management of Land Ambulance will provide opportunities to further improve efficiencies and ensure uniformity of service across the District.

All Paramedics presently employed by the current contracted service providers will be offered employment. The same high quality of care currently provided by caring and competent Paramedics, will continue to be provided across the District.

The move to a Direct Delivery model will not change the front line delivery of services being provided across the Rainy River District. Residents in our District can continue to rely on the continued availability and responsiveness of the Emergency Medical System (EMS).

RRDSSAB Board Members

Alberton:	Barb Cournoyer
Atikokan:	Dennis Brown
Chapple:	Peter Van Heyst
Dawson:	Linda Armstrong
Emo:	Russ Fortier
Fort Frances:	Tannis Drysdale (Vice-Chair)
Lake of the Woods:	Valarie Pizey (Chair)
LaVallee:	Emily Watson
Morley:	Gary Gamsby
Rainy River:	Glen Armstrong
Rainy River East:	Michael Lewis
Rainy River Central:	John Callan
Rainy River West:	Wade Desserre

excellence in Governance



The RRDSSAB has a new Chair and Vice-Chair for a one-year term, as follows:

Chair: Val Pizey
Vice-Chair: Tannis Drysdale

Ontario Works Update



Regulations relating to the Special Diet Allowance have been amended. As of November 4, 2005, an approved health professional must confirm a recipient's eligibility for a special diet(s) in accordance with the medical condition(s) set out in the new *Special Diet Schedule*. Recipients eligible for the Pregnancy Nutritional Allowance are eligible to receive the allowance for an additional 12 months after the pregnancy ends, as a breast-feeding allowance. Recipients currently receiving a Special Diet Allowance have to be reviewed to determine eligibility under the amended regulation. An amount for the additional cost of a Special Diet(s) may not exceed \$250 per month for each member of the benefit unit.

Workshops at the Employment Resource Centre for January: WHMIS, Resume/Cover Letter Writing, Job Skills, Smart Serve. As well we are now using a new tool called "Employment Readiness Scale" with all of our participants. This is a web-based questionnaire completed by participants. Results from completed questionnaires let a participant know where they fall on the Job Readiness Scale (ie. Not ready, Job ready, Minimal ready) and will advise participants of the supports that need to be put in place in order to become ready for employment.

~ Shelley Shute, Ontario Works Manager

Best Start Child Care News



The Best Start Initiative has seen a great deal of activity over the last few months. During the month of September, the Best Start Core Network and Advisory Groups to the Network were developed. The Network adopted a *Terms of Reference* and began the process of community consultation, in order to gather information for the *Best Start Child Care Service Plan*.

The resulting *Best Start Child Care Service Plan 2005-2007* updated the existing *RRDSSAB Child Care Service Plan* reflecting Best Start components, with the inclusion of the Ministry of Children and Youth Services "Schools First Policy". This policy required the Network to consider licensed child care spaces in or around schools. With that requirement in mind, Child Care spaces are currently being developed across the Rainy River District. Further information on the *Best Start Child Care Plan* is available at the DSSAB office.

The timelines have been extremely tight with Best Start. In order to facilitate a complete picture of Rainy River District needs and wants, a massive community consultation took place in the months of October, November and December. A summary of the consultations is available on the DSSAB website and will be used to develop the *Best Start Integrated Implementation Plan*. The date for submission to the Ministry of Children and Youth Services is January 31, 2006.

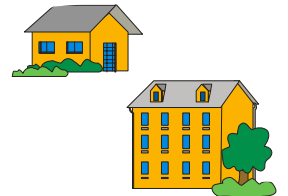
~ Jeannette Cawston, Best Start Coordinator

Are you in need of financial assistance? Atikokan Call 597-1431



Emergency Rent Bank Fund

The RRDSSAB, together with the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, is providing funding for short-term rent arrears to residents in the Rainy River District. Rent bank funding can help tenants avoid eviction and is available for residents with low incomes who, due to an unforeseen crisis, miss rent payments. The fund was established by the Ontario Government in 2004 and funds were allocated to municipal service managers province-wide.



If you are experiencing financial difficulties, and unable to pay your rent and are in the process of being evicted, you may qualify for emergency rent bank funding. For more information contact Michelle Korpi, Tenant Placement Coordinator, at (807) 274-5349 ext 31, or drop in to pick up an *Application* at 206 Scott Street in Fort Frances or the Rawn Road Centre in Atikokan.

**You may
qualify for
Emergency
Rent Bank
Funding.**

If you or someone you know is looking for affordable rent-g geared-to-income housing, we have three and four bedroom family homes, and one-bedroom seniors apartments available in Atikokan. If you are interested in these homes/apartments, or would like to know about other units somewhere else in the Rainy River District, please contact Michelle Korpi, Tenant Placement Coordinator, at 274-5349 ext 31, or toll-free at 1-800-265-5349 ext 31.

~Cathe Hoszowski, Social Housing Manager



Visit our Web-site... www.rrdssab.ca

Thought for the Day...

Happiness comes to those who are moving toward something they want very much to happen. And it almost always involves making someone else happy.

